



## ***City of Gaithersburg***

31 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

**DRAFT**

### Mayor and City Council Regular Session Minutes City Hall - Council Chambers Monday, July 15, 2013

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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

A Mayor and City Council Regular Session was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Katz presiding. Council Members present: Jud Ashman, Cathy Drzyzgula, Henry F. Marraffa, Michael Sesma, and Ryan Spiegel. Staff present: City Manager Tomasello, City Attorney Board, Economic Development Director Lonergan, Parks, Recreation and Culture Director Potter, Recreation and Parks Services Division Chief McGuire, Public Works Operations Superintendent Scafide, Animal Control Board Director Holland, and Municipal Clerk Stokes.

#### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge was led by David Goodwin of Harford County Parks and Recreation.

#### **III. INVOCATION**

In lieu of a formal invocation, Mayor Katz called for a moment of silence.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **A. Regular Session held July 1, 2013**

Motion was made by Jud Ashman, seconded by Henry F. Marraffa, that the minutes of a Regular Session held July 1, 2013, be approved.

Vote: 5-0

#### **V. APPOINTMENTS**

##### **A. Resolution of the City Council Confirming a Reappointment and an Appointment by the Mayor to the Senior Advisory Committee**

This resolution confirmed the following to the Senior Advisory Committee: Lilia Jacobs (reappointment), 19232 Walters Avenue, Poolesville, Maryland 20837 and Anne Byrd (appointment), 16 Irish Court, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878, two-year terms.

Motion was made by Cathy Drzyzgula, seconded by Jud Ashman, that a Resolution of the City Council Confirming a Reappointment and an Appointment by the Mayor to the Senior Advisory Committee, be approved.

Vote: 5-0

**B. Resolution of the City Council Confirming a Reappointment by the Mayor to the Animal Control Board**

This resolution confirmed the following reappointment to the Animal Control Board: Robert H. Moore (Full Time Business Community), 7 Montgomery Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877, three-year term.

Motion was made by Ryan Spiegel, seconded by Cathy Drzyzgula, that a Resolution of the City Council Confirming a Reappointment by the Mayor to the Animal Control Board, be approved.

Vote: 5-0

**C. Resolution of the City Council Confirming a Reappointment by the Mayor to the Commission on Landlord/Tenant Affairs**

This resolution confirmed the following reappointment to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs: Jean Noah (Landlord), 313 Main Street, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878, three-year term.

Motion was made by Jud Ashman, seconded by Ryan Spiegel, that a Resolution of the City Council Confirming a Reappointment by the Mayor to the Commission on Landlord/Tenant Affairs, be approved.

Vote: 5-0

**VI. OATH OF OFFICE**

**A. Oath of Office to Animal Control Board Member**

Mayor Katz administered the oath of office to Robert Moore to execute the office of the Animal Control Board as Business Community member, according to the United States and Maryland Constitutions, the Laws of this State and the Gaithersburg City Charter and Code.

**B. Oath of Office to Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs Member**

Mayor Katz administered the oath of office to Jean Noah to execute the office of the Commission of Landlord-Tenant Affairs as Landlord Member, according to the United States and Maryland Constitutions, the Laws of this State and the Gaithersburg City Charter and Code.

## **VII. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Follow-up to Synthetic Turf Field Discussion**

Parks, Recreation and Culture Director Potter gave a presentation on the proposed synthetic turf field at Lakelands Park. She addressed questions and concerns from the July 10 work session discussion and reviewed the supplemental information drafted in a recent July 3, 2013 memorandum. The information was researched and prepared by City staff from the Planning & Code Administration, Parks, Recreation and Culture, Finance & Administration, and Public Works. The information pertains to comparable cost, environmental impacts, concussions, recycling, competitive bidding, equipment needed with costs and lifecycle, a schedule of depreciation, and a replacement schedule and cost.

It was noted that the synthetic turf industry has made the recycling and repurposing of their product a key goal, with the Synthetic Turf Council serving as an active voice for environmental responsibility. Sustainable practices have been further developed and improved, each separate element of synthetic turf is considered. Immediate environmental benefits noted from synthetic turf are the reduction of emissions from the lack of lawn mowing; water conservation occurs with the reduction or elimination of watering fields; and both human and stream health issues associated with pesticide/fertilizer use and runoff are abated. Further, the vast majority of synthetic turf products are composed of recycled tire materials. However, it has been acknowledged that current and earlier generation synthetic materials do leach or off-gas a number heavy metals, amine aromatics, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. All potentially toxic or known carcinogens if they are absorbed into the body at a high enough dosage. Upon reviewing current available materials, staff believes that with sufficient drainage systems and stormwater management controls, runoff from synthetic turf fields should have a negligible impact on associated stream systems and groundwater. Questions do remain regarding health impacts, but based upon the available studies, staff would have far greater concern if the proposed fields were to be used in an enclosed environment and/or programming included daily use by an individual, particularly a child, for multiple hours. Parks, Recreation and Culture Director Potter reported that the industry does appear to be responding to the health concerns mentioned above and one manufacturer of synthetic turf fields sells a product known as EcoFill, an infill product advertised to be free of heavy metals, amine aromatics and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

In regards to the prevention and treatment of concussions, studies have concluded that synthetic turf does not cause an increased risk of concussion. The reports even suggest that there may be a decreased risk of concussion due to better shock absorption properties in the synthetic turf. The monitoring and measuring of shock absorbing properties in synthetic turf is called G-Max testing. An optional Shock Pad System is also available that can further increase shock absorption. The City will require proper "G-Max" testing and submission of a written report prior to final acceptance of any field, and will also request the cost of a Shock Pad System in the bid documents. The cost of the Synthetic Turf Field project will require a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) process. An RFP will have to be developed and issued for the purpose of obtaining proposals from contractors interested in the project. The maintenance equipment needed to maintain the synthetic turf field at Lakelands Park would be a Synthetic Sports Turf Groomer.

In regards to a schedule of depreciation/replacement schedule and costs, the City's Department of Finance and Administration contacted various agencies and found that a ten year depreciation schedule is a reasonable and conservative approach.

Mark Scafide, Public Works, provided maps to address the drainage systems and stormwater management controls, runoff mechanism for the proposed synthetic field. It was noted that sampling and testing have been done by Montgomery County.

David Goodwin of Harford County Parks and Recreation answered questions regarding the aspect of project management associated with synthetic turf. Mr. Goodwin has designed and completed the installation of twelve (12) synthetic turf fields and has assisted City staff with their design and bid document process. He stated that all of the fields meet the stormwater management criteria. It was noted that Harford County does not do testing of water drainage and added that the life cycle of the fields are approximately 10 years, depending on maintenance and usage. He noted that Harford County has not done any replacements as of yet.

Questions were raised by the City Council concerning field temperatures, field life-cycle timeline, the recycling process and many other items of concern. Staff was asked to follow-up and meet with MCPS to discuss the policy for using the field. Staff was directed to visit additional sites, obtain more information on the cost for replacement and maintenance, alternatives for materials, new technology to maintain, and address any safety concerns. Staff received guidance to proceed with a request for proposals and was commended on a thorough presentation.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Cary Dimmick, Principal Intern at Lakelands Park Middle School, on behalf of the school and the data presented by staff, he expressed full support for the installation of the synthetic turf field.
2. Bailey Condrey, Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition, applauded the honest appraisal presented by a representative from the field management arena on said type of field. Cautioned the City Council about runoff from the fields and suggested a trap for the rubber crumb infill, if used.
3. Janice Sartucci, Parents Coalition of Montgomery County, echoed comments of the above speaker and applauded the thorough presentation on the subject matter above. Stated that the Montgomery County Inspector General investigated and confirmed the partnership of the turf field arrangement between Montgomery County Public Schools and the Maryland National Park and Planning. She cautioned the City on the maintenance warranty.

**IX. FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL****A. Announcements****Cathy Drzyzgula**

1. Announced that members of the City Council, Planning Commission, and City staff have been invited to participate in an on-site tour of the new development Spectrum at Watkins Mill on Monday, July 29th at 7:30 p.m. The Spectrum at Watkins Mill is a mixed use development located at the intersection of Watkins Mill Road and North Frederick Avenue. When complete, the development will feature over 600 apartments, restaurants and retail stores. The signature feature of the development is Performer's Park – a gathering space that includes a programmable splash fountain and a performance stage. Tours of the development project and light refreshments will be provided. The event will take place on-site at 230 Spectrum Avenue, in the Liberty at Paramount East. The public is invited to attend, but must register in advance. For more information contact Planning Division Chief Lauren Pruss by the close of business on Friday, July 26th at 301-258-6330.
2. Attended the soft open ribbon cutting for the Hampton Inn & Suites.
3. Attended the July 4th celebration at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center. Commented on the improved musical entertainment. Applauded the improved exiting of vehicles and pedestrians.
4. Participated in a webinar for the Chesapeake Program.
5. Attended the County's final Accounting for Growth meeting to finalize a policy on how to off-set pollution in new development.
6. Thanked staff for improved and timely availability of Mayor and City Council packets.

**Henry Marraffa**

1. Announced the vacancy on the Animal Control Board; one (1) Alternate Veterinarian position. Resumes and letters of interest should be submitted to: Mayor and City Council, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877, or send via email to: [cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov). These positions will remain open until filled. For more information visit the City's web site or contact Animal Control Director Lisa Holland at 301-258-6343.
2. Attended the Hampton Inn & Suites opening in Gaithersburg mentioned above.
3. Attended and enjoyed the 4th of July celebration and applauded staff.
4. Attended the Quince Orchard Park 4th of July parade and celebration.

**Ryan Spiegel**

1. Announced the one (1) full member vacancy on the Personnel Review Board. The incumbent Board member has requested reappointment. All applicants must reside within the corporate City limits. Resumes and letters of interest should be submitted to: Mayor and City Council, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877, or send via email to: [cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov). This position will remain open until July 19, 2013. For more information visit the City's web site at

[www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) or contact City Attorney Lynn Board at 301-258-6310.

2. Mentioned he, Mayor Katz and Council Member Drzyzgula traveled to the Islamic Center of Maryland to attend a Ramadan Iftar Dinner to celebrate the diversity of Montgomery County.
3. Echoed comments about the July 4th celebration.
4. Reported that the Montgomery County Council Government Operations Committee held their first work session on the report from the Office of Legislative Oversight in the County regarding their recommendations on municipal tax duplication.
5. Mentioned several upcoming events and urged citizens to visit the City's website for more information.
6. Congratulated Not Your Average Joe's Restaurant on their one year anniversary.

#### **Jud Ashman**

1. Mentioned the success of the 4th of July celebration. Urged residents to come onto the fairgrounds to better enjoy the band and other entertainment. It was suggested to survey those not coming onto the grounds.
2. Thanked Quince Orchard Park on the invite to attend their 4th of July parade and celebration.
3. Announced that a well-known country artist may join the City during the 2014 Gaithersburg Book Festival, stay tuned for a press release.
4. Announced three (3) vacancies on the Commission of Landlord-Tenant Affairs, one (1) full time Landlord Representative, one (1) full time Tenant Representative and one (1) Alternate Tenant. All applicants must reside within the corporate City limits. Resumes and letters of interest should be submitted to: Mayor and City Council, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877, or send via email to: [cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov). These positions will remain open until filled. For more information visit the City's website or contact Neighborhood Services Director Kevin Roman at 301-258-6340.

#### **Mayor Katz**

1. Announced the upcoming work session scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2013, to receive a presentation on Pepco's Energy Savings Programs.
2. Echoed Council Member Drzyzgula's announcement for the July 29, 2013 work session/on-site visit to the Spectrum at Watkins Mill.
3. Announced the next regular session is scheduled for Monday, August 5, 2013.

### **X. FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

#### **Tony Tomasello**

1. Reported that thousands attended the 4th of July celebration and suggested reaching out to those attending but not entering the fairgrounds.
2. Announced that additional meeting bodies will start using the SIRE meeting management system. All should be online by the end of the year.
3. Announced that staff will conduct preliminary outreach to the community to

develop procedures with wild life for the City's Animal Control.

**XI. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

**Thomas Lonergan**

Announced that Montgomery County Executive Leggett created the Night Time Economy Task Force to address employment and business development. Several meetings have been scheduled with a written report due in October.

**XII. FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY / OTHER STAFF**

**City Attorney Board**

Reported on the Public Service Commission's decision awarding PEPCO a rate increase. Several requirements for improvements were put in place.

**XIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. **From Staff - None to Date**
- B. **From Outside**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before this session of the City Council, the meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.